

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA
Public Meeting Room B
Delta Township Administration Building
7710 West Saginaw Highway
Lansing MI 48917

TOWNSHIP BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER –

Supervisor Fletcher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

Members Present: Supervisor Kenneth Fletcher, Treasurer Howard Pizzo, Clerk Mary Clark, and Trustees Jeff Hicks, Dennis Fedewa, Karen Mojica and R. Douglas Kosinski

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Manager Richard Watkins, Deputy Manager Jen Roberts, Lt Jeff Campbell, Community Development Director Mark Graham and Ed Reed, Economic Development

III. SET/ADJUST AGENDA –

Trustee Fedewa moved the agenda be approved as presented. Treasurer Pizzo supported the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT –

Joseph, a student from Waverly High School, is in attendance at the meeting this evening fulfilling a requirement for his government class.

V. COMMUNICATIONS –

1. Letter from Dave Forsberg

Mr. Forsberg has raised the question whether construction should be banned after 5pm during week days and on the weekends. Currently the noise ordinance is in effect, approximately 10pm through 6am. Trustee Kosinski certainly is aware of the concerns and supports some modifications. A ban is not favored by most as it would limit and extend project completion dates. Treasurer Pizzo would like to see pros and cons of modifications from staff for further discussion and comparisons to what other communities have for regulations.

VI. PRESENTATIONS – None.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT – None.

VIII. DEPARTMENT REPORT –

IX. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION –

2. Fireworks Ordinance Discussion -

Supervisor Fletcher addressed the Board Members providing some background on the experiences from 2012 regarding firework discharges and complaints received to get the new Board Members up to speed on the proposed ordinance to limit discharge of fireworks to the 10 federal holidays including the day before and day after each holiday. Ultimately, there was no action by the State of Michigan to limit discharge dates and the matter is now before the Board for discussion.

Clerk Clark, as a member of the committee looking into this issue, is very supportive of the Township adopting the ordinance limiting discharge. Other jurisdictions have added local restrictions and others have limitations under consideration at this time.

Lt. Campbell is supportive of the limitations and has concerns regarding burning bans and the risk associated with the discharge of fireworks during such bans. Manager Watkins clarified that the burning ban does not exclude firework discharge. The risk during the dry season is a concern and could be a very serious situation.

State law prohibits the burning ban including fireworks discharge. The Township can adopt a fireworks discharge ordinance limiting the number of days of discharge, in turn limiting the days of legal discharge which may fall in a burning ban.

Mark Graham pointed out that minor changes need to be made to the Code of Ordinances reflecting current legislation regardless of whether or not any changes are made related to firework discharge limitations.

Lt. Campbell expressed the difficulty involved in trying to enforce the noise ordinance in the middle night with firework discharge.

Supervisor Fletcher referred the matter back to the committee to consider additional options.

3. Strategic Planning Discussion -

Supervisor Fletcher summarized the work accomplished to date.

Trustee Kosinski relayed that within\\ regard to economic development he would like to see the Township leverage Township resources to assist current and future businesses with financing and obtaining loans as an objective.

Trustee Fedewa would like to see a business incubator added as a goal.

Trustee Mojica feels the priorities within each category needs to be broken down into long-term goals versus short term goals to make the best use of resources.

Larry Leatherwood addressed the Board as a member of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC). He advised the EDC has adopted a motion that the EDC will prioritize efforts of the Saginaw Corridor. He is happy to hear that the Board feels this to be a priority as well. An EDC task force has been formed toward this effort comprised of three EDC members and Ed Reed.

Treasurer Pizzo would like to see a fourth category added of "continued good government." This would include regional cooperation and efforts, service sharing, quality customer service.

Supervisor Fletcher suggests the plan remain broad and then provide staff the opportunity to bring back options for achieving the objectives. The Board can then make adjustments and modifications at that time.

Trustee Hicks raised concerns about stifling creativity in staff toward accomplishing the goals.

Clerk Clark reiterated that the role of the Township Board with the strategic plan is to set objectives not to set action steps nor implement them.

Supervisor Fletcher reviewed the objectives in the draft plan.

The next time discussions take place on the strategic plan the Board will be prioritizing the goals, such as long term or short term.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA

MARY R. CLARK, CLERK

KENNETH FLETCHER, SUPERVISOR